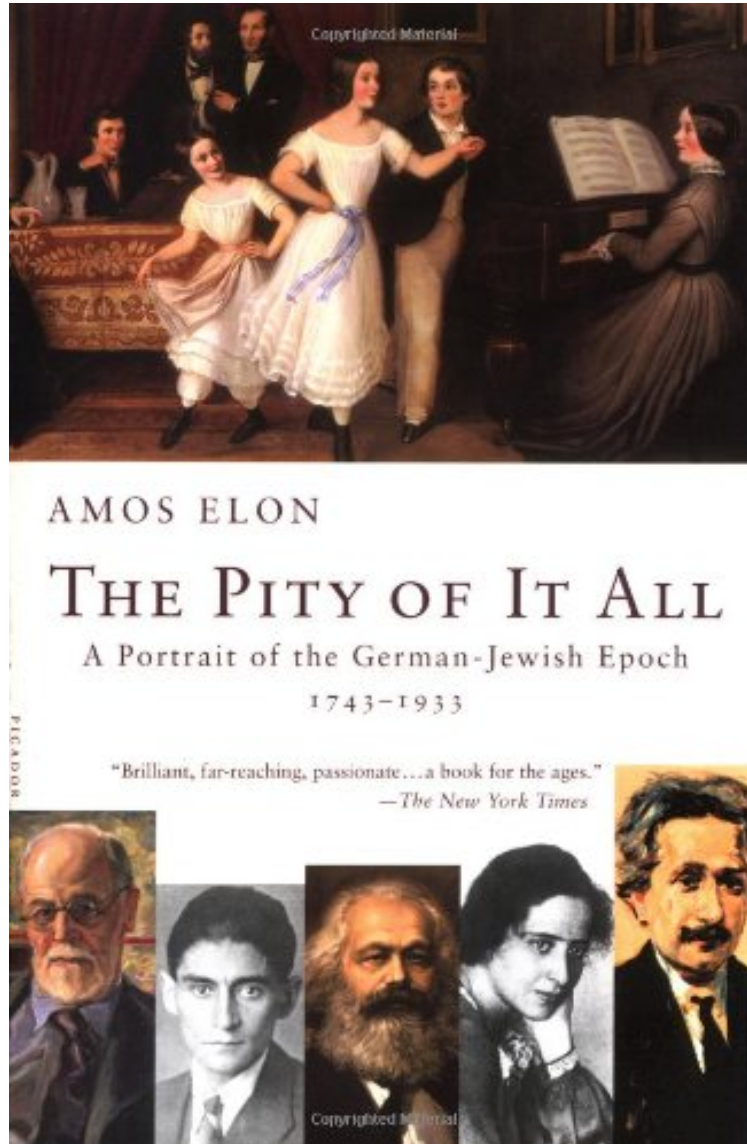


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# The Pity of It All: A Portrait of the German-Jewish Epoch, 1743-1933

Amos Elon

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**Amos Elon : The Pity of It All: A Portrait of the German-Jewish Epoch, 1743-1933** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pity of It All: A Portrait of the German-Jewish Epoch, 1743-1933:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A brilliant history of the tragic fate of Germany's Jews By A Frenchy

in NYCElon's book is truly fantastic. Entertaining, packed with information, anecdotes and written with a wonderful style, the book retraces the doomed history of the Jews from Germany from Mendelssohn to Hitler. Written through biographies of its most significant figures (Mendelssohn, Heine, Rathenau, Rahel Levin, Kraus, etc.), it is both illuminating and tragic and its title couldn't have better translated the feeling of waste and tragedy of what could have been.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. eye openingBy Elena BohannanI would have liked to learn world history in World History class; but instead we memorized dates of battles, and names of generals and politicians. If, as students in public schools, we hadn't had to spend all of our time on rote memorization of non-worthwhile factoids, we might have been able to read books by actual historians who had researched the past. Imagine, there were women and men who weren't in the ruling classes, who did stuff and had stuff happen to them that actually profoundly influenced how our current societies were formed. I really appreciate the research that went into this book, and am glad that I came across it. The writing itself is clear, and flows, so the reading itself is aesthetically pleasing.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent bookBy Dorothea C.As a person with German Jewish ancestors, I really enjoyed this history. It is quite readable and a compelling account.

In this important work of historical restoration, Amos Elon shows how a persecuted clan of cattle dealers and wandering peddlers was transformed into a stunningly successful community of writers, philosophers, scientists, tycoons, and activists. In engaging, brilliantly etched portraits of Moses Mendelssohn, Heinrich Heine, Karl Marx, Hannah Arendt, and many others, Elon traces how a small minority came to be perceived as a deadly threat to German national integrity.

Brilliant, far-reaching, passionate. . .sweeping and marvelously detailed. . .finely, intimately, movingly drawn. . . a book for the ages. The New York Times[Elon] is a master of the telling anecdote. . .One should be grateful for what Elon has done. Los Angeles TimesA work packed with beautifully sketched portraits, and constructed with a practiced eye for memorable, well-executed anecdotes. The New York Times Book Impressive. . .Could hardly be improved upon. The New York of BooksIf there is one book Americans should read this winter, it is Amos Elon's *The Pity of It All*--a meticulous and wrenching history of a people in a place at a moment in time that bears urgently upon our own. Joan Didion, author of *Political Fictions*About the AuthorAmos Elon is the author of eight widely praised books including *Founder: A Portrait of the First Rothschild*, and the New York Times bestseller *Israelis: Founders and Sons*. He was a frequent contributor to *The New York Times Magazine* and *The New York of Books*. He passed away in 2009.Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.From *The Pity of It All*:Barely twenty-four years old, Heinrich Heine arrived in Berlin in the summer of 1821 to study law at the university and attend Hegel's seminar on aesthetics. Slight, pale, with dreamy blue eyes and long, wavy blond hair, he was an enormously gifted writer, widely known for the lyricism of his poetry and the scathing wit of his prose. No other author has ever been so German and so Jewish or so ambivalent and ironic about being both; Heine would leave an indelible mark on German culture. During these university days, he wore velvet jackets, dandyish Byronic collars, and a fashionable wide-rimmed felt hat known as a Bolivar. Older by two or three years than most of his peers, he was allergic to the alcohol, nicotine, and "patriotic" politics they indulged in so boisterously. His distaste for alcohol persisted; he is said to have claimed that the Jewish contribution to the new German patriotism was "the small glass" of beer.